

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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R 201728Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2835

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PINT, PO

SUBJ: AFM ASSEMBLY COMMUNIQUE

REFS: (A) LISBON 2786; (B) FBIS LONDON 200321Z MAY 75

SUMMARY: FIRST POST-ELECTION AFM ASSEMBLY MET AND ISSUED COMMUNIQUE COVERING FOLLOWING SEVEN TOPICS: SITUATION IN ANGOLA, INQUEST ON MARCH 11 COUP, CREATION OF REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL, REPORT ON EVENTS OF MAY 1, DISCUSSION OF WEEKEND'S DEVELOPMENTS, REPORT ON ECONOMIC SITUATION, REPORT BY MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JESUINO ON TRIP TO U.S. DISCUSSION OF OTHER AGENDA TOPICS RELATING TO INTERNAL AFM QUESTIONS WAS POSTPONED. RUMORED PURGE OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MODERATES DID NOT DEVELOP. END SUMMARY.

1. ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) ASSEMBLY, MEETING MAY 19 FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRST TIME SINCE APRIL 25 ELECTIONS, ISSUED COMMUNIQUE UPON

TERMINATION AT 1:30 A.M. OF PROLONGED SESSION (REF B).
COMMUNIQUE'S PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS WAS ON ANGOLA.

2. ANGOLA: ASSEMBLY HEARD REPORT FROM AFM PROGRAM COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN ANGOLA. COMMUNIQUE CHARGED THAT FORCES OF REACTION IN PORTUGAL, AIDED BY "PROVOCATORY LEFTIST GROUPS," ARE ATTEMPTING DIVERT ATTENTION OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTIONARY AUTHORITIES FROM WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ANGOLA. ASSEMBLY CALLED FOR MOBILIZATION OF PORTUGUESE PUBLIC OPINION IN REGARD TO DECOLONIZATION PROBLEMS AND REITERATED ITS CONFIDENCE IN CONDUCT OF PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES IN ANGOLA.

3. MARCH 11 INQUEST, REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL: ASSEMBLY ALSO GAVE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TO "EXCELLENT AND TIMELY WORK" OF MARCH 11 INQUIRY BOARD. ASSEMBLY APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL (WHICH WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEARING CASES OF PERSONS IMPLICATED IN COUP) TO BE COMPOSED OF ELEMENTS DESIGNATED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WITH 12-MEMBER JURY (AND SIX ALTERNATES) NAMED BY AFM ASSEMBLY.

4. EVENTS OF MAY 1: ASSEMBLY HEARD REPORT ON MAY 1 INTERSINDICAL RALLY BLAMING EVENTS ON SOCIALISTS. DISCUSSION FOLLOWED ON THEME OF AFM'S NEED TO STRENGTHEN "ITS DIRECT LINKS WITH ALL STRUCTURES OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION" -- AS MEANS OF "CONSOLIDATING ALLIANCE OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE AFM AND OVERCOMING PARTISAN DIFFERENCES."

5. WEEKEND DEVELOPMENTS: ASSEMBLY HEARD REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS OVER MAY 17-18 WEEKEND (REFTEL), APPROVING AND ENDORSING COPCON STATEMENT LABELLING MRPP "DEVISIONIST AND COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" GROUP.

6. ECONOMIC SITUATION: MINISTER OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC COORDINATION MARIO MURTEIRA BRIEFED ASSEMBLY ON ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PLANS FOR COPING WITH ECONOMY'S PROBLEMS. (MURTEIRA WAS ONLY CIVILIAN TO ADDRESS ASSEMBLY.)

7. JESUINO'S U.S. VISIT: MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER CORREIA JESUINO REPORTED ON JUST-COMPLETED U.S. TOUR. JESUINO COMMENTED ON HOSTILE RECEPTION HE ENCOUNTERED AMONG SOME SECTORS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY IN U.S. JESUINO ALSO ANNOUNCED HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT C.I.A., WHERE HE SPOKE WITH GEN WALTERS WHO, ACCORDING TO JESUINO, EMPHASIZED CIA'S NON-INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

8. DUE TO LATENESS OF HOUR, ASSEMBLY POSTPONED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION AGENDA TOPICS CONCERNING INTEGRATION OF ARMED FORCES INTO AFM PROGRAM'S SPIRIT, EFFICIENCY AND DISCIPLINE OF ARMED

FORCES, CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM, AND AFM "INTERNAL QUESTIONS."

9. COMMENT: (A) ATTEMPT BY AFM RADICALS TO USE THIS ASSEMBLY SESSION TO LAUNCH PURGE OF MODERATES FROM REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DID NOT MATERIALIZE.

(B) ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO APPEARS TO BE DIRECT BENEFICIARY OF ASSEMBLY'S COMMENDATION OF MARCH 11 INQUIRY BOARD, SINCE GROUP ACTED UNDER HIS GENERAL SUPERVISION.

(C) AS FOR ANGOLA, ASSEMBLY COMMUNIQUE REAFFIRMS AFM SUPPORT FOR NEUTRAL POSITION HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS ADOPTED VIS-A-VIS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, RESISTING LEFTIST PRESSURE FOR GOP TO SIDE OPENLY WITH MPLA.

(D) AFM LINE CALLING FOR STRENGTHENING MOVEMENT'S "DIRECT LINKS" WITH PEOPLE IS BEING HEARD INCREASINGLY AND CAUSING CONCERN IN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.

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